

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SINGAP 02858 070850Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 AID-05 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00

DLOS-09 FEA-01 AGRE-00 /091 W

-----083260 070935Z /23

R 070809Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8044

AMEMBASSY MANILA

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 2858

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, ASEAN, RP (ROMULO, CARLOS P)

SUBJ: ROMULO ON US-ASEAN RELATIONS

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: SUMMARY: PHILIPPINE FONMIN ROMULO SAYS U.S. MUST TREAT ASEAN LIKE WESTERN EUROPE AND JAPAN, REMAIN STRONG AND ACTIVE IN ASIA AND RESPECT SOVEREIGNTY OF ASEAN NATIONS. CALLS FOR DIALOGUE AMONG ASIAN DC'S/LDC'S AND WESTERN/ JAPANESE "MARSHALL PLAN" FOR REGION. END SUMMARY.

2. IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED MORNING OF 7/5, ROMULO SAID U.S. SHOULD REMEMBER THAT ASEAN IS NOT ASKING FOR FOREIGN AID. "WE DO NOT WANT AID. WE WANT EQUAL TREATMENT. IT (THE U.S.) SHOULD PAY US THE SAME ATTENTION IT IS GIVING JAPAN". HE POINTED OUT THAT ASEAN WAS RECOGNIZED AS VIABLE ENTITY BY EEC, JAPAN, AND NEW ZEALAND AND NOW THE U.S. IS PREPARING FOR DIALOGUE WITH ASEAN IN AUGUST (SIC).

3. PAPER QUOTES ROMULO AS SAYING, "IF THE U.S. WITHDRAWS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SINGAP 02858 070850Z

FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA, THERE WILL BE A VACUUM AND THIS WILL BE FILLED BY OTHER POWERS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE U.S. SHOULD HAVE ANY SURROGATES IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. IT SHOULD LEARN FROM THE LESSON OF VIETNAM--THAT PEOPLE CLINGING TO ANOTHER NATION LIKE A VINE CLINGS TO ITS STAKES, WILL NOT HAVE THE POLITICAL WILL TO SURVIVE CRISES". HE ADDED THAT ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL PROBABLY DEVOTE MUCH TIME TO DISCUSSING U.S.

ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY TOWARD SEA.

4. ROMULO ALSO CALLED FOR A "MARSHALL PLAN"-STYLE AID PROGRAM FOR ASIA TO GIVE ASEAN BREATHING ROOM, SAYING THE IMBALANCE IN DC-LDC TRADE COULD NOT CONTINUE INDEFINITELY. WEST AND JAPAN MUST RECOGNIZE, HE SAID, THAT THERE IS EXPLOITATION INHERENT IN SYSTEM OF LOW RAW MATERIAL PRICES AND MUCH HIGHER PRICES OF MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS IMPORTED BY LDC'S. HE IS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING TIME IS RIPE FOR DIALOGUE AMONG DEVELOPED ASIAN NATIONS AND THEIR LESS ADVANCED NEIGHBORS. IN SUCH A FORUM, SAID ROMULO, "COOPERATION CAN INDEED BECOME A REALIZABLE GOAL".

5. HE MENTIONED NEW PROBLEMS FACING ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS, INCLUDING A) GROWING COMPETITION BETWEEN U.S. AND INDONESIAN OIL PRODUCTS FOR JAPANESE MARKET AND U.S.-JAPAN COMPETITION FOR INVESTMENT AND OIL PRODUCTION IN INDONESIA; B) BID FOR HIGHER OIL PRODUCTION AMONG MALAYSIA, INDONESIA AND CHINA TO SUPPLY JAPAN MARKET; C) AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND EFFORTS TO EXPLOIT URANIUM RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY IN PHILIPPINES, THAILAND AND JAPAN; D) PROPOSALS TO CARTELIZE ASEAN PRODUCTS SUCH AS RUBBER, TIN AND COPRA; E) SHORTAGES OF TECHNICAL AND MANAGERIAL SKILLS IN ASEAN; AND F) SERIOUS MOVE AMONG ASEAN MEMBERS TO PUSH FOR NIEO IN WORLD FORA. END UNCLAS-SIFIED.

6. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: EMBASSY COMMENT: ROMULO'S SPEECH
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SINGAP 02858 070850Z

IMPRESSES US AS BEING RATHER CONFUSED, AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS WHETHER THE TONE AND CONTRADICTIONS IN ROMULO'S COMMENTS ARE MORE THE FAULT OF THE SPEAKER OR THE REPORTERS COVERING HIM. CERTAINLY ROMULO'S THOUGHTS SEEM TO BE FOCUSED ON THE POST-WWII ERA, WHEN HE SPEAKS OF A "REHABILITATION PLAN" FOR ASIA AND TOUCHES ON THE LONG-TIME FILIPINO BELIEF THAT THE RELATIVE POSITIONS OF JAPAN AND THE PHILIPPINES ARE AS THEY ARE BECAUSE THE U.S. FAVORED JAPAN WITH MORE AID IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE WAR (PARA 2, ABOVE). THE CONTRADICTIONS BETWEEN HIS DISAVOWAL OF AID AND THE SUGGESTION OF RECONSTRUCTION AID ARE OBVIOUS AND PUZZLING. EQUALLY PUZZLING IS HIS REFERENCE TO U.S. "SURROGATES" IN THE REGION (PARA 3, ABOVE); NEITHER JAPAN NOR THE PHILIPPINES FITS WELL IN CONTEXT. HOLDRIDGE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL ORGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SINGAP02858
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770241-0017
Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770782/aaaactkf.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4156a66f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1936255
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROMULO ON US-ASEAN RELATIONS
TAGS: ECIN, RP, US, ASEAN, (ROMULO, CARLOS P)
To: STATE MANILA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4156a66f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009